

## **Recreation Master Plan**

Prepared May 19, 2014 for the Board of County Commissioners  
Public Hearing of June 9, 2014



**PROJECT:** Valley-wide Recreation Master Plan.

### **BACKGROUND:**

1. August 2012- Newly adopted Comprehensive Plan identified several areas where additional studies would be needed (Economic Development, Transportation, Recreation, Impact Fee and Marketing/Way Finding...)
2. May 29, 2013- RFQ was sent out, closed June 21, 2013
3. September 2013- BoCC signs contract with the City of Driggs to oversee work with Harmony Design & Engineering and Ballard King.
4. September 23, 2013- Recreation Advisory Committee begins meeting to discuss existing facilities, offer feedback on drafts and provide input.
5. October 24, thru December 3, 2013- Recreation survey was utilized to gather public input.
6. March 18, 2014- Committee recommends moving the plan forward to the County and Cities.
7. May 12, 2014- Teton County holds a public meeting to solicit comments on the Recreation Mater Plan Draft.
8. June 9, 2014- Teton County BoCC holds a public hearing to take action on the plan (This is the 4<sup>th</sup> full draft since public review started).

### **SUMMARY OF THE REPORT:**

Summarization of some of the topics in the report.

**COORDINATION-** “There are approximately eleven nonprofit organizations, twelve private businesses, and eight public entities that currently own and maintain recreation facilities and/or run recreation programs.”

“There is a strong need for a single coordinating agency that can provide recreation information, manage programs, promote events and activities, and coordinate facility maintenance in Teton Valley.”

**MAINTENANCE-** “Most of the recreation facilities in the valley are owned by public entities, such as Teton County and the cities of Driggs, Victor, and Teton. Facilities include community parks, neighborhood parks, paved trails, dirt trails, sports fields, and specialty parks.”

“Although the number of existing facilities is generally adequate, the condition of the facilities is poor. Ball fields, tennis courts, and volleyball courts were all facilities identified that are in need of better maintenance. Facilities that need improvements or expansion include the ice rink and the fairgrounds. With a growing, active population, there is the need to develop additional recreation facilities that serve the youth, as well as middle aged and senior populations.”

**FACILITIES-** “Unlike recreation facilities, recreation programs in the valley are primarily run by nonprofit organizations and the school district. Programs include baseball, softball, soccer, football, basketball, swimming, volleyball, wrestling, gymnastics, judo, rodeo, golf, hockey, figure skating, and skiing. There are several fitness programs run out of private fitness businesses such as yoga, Pilates, dance, and general fitness classes.”

ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS- “Access to the beautiful and world class public lands and waterways is one of the most important assets in Teton Valley. There are a total of thirty-six points of access onto Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, eight points of access to the Teton River, and one access point to Trail Creek Pond.”

FUNDING- “Operation and maintenance of existing facilities has significant funding needs that are not being met by current county and city budgets.”

“Estimated annual operation and maintenance costs for facilities that are currently the responsibility of the county or cities is \$500,000 per year, but less than \$200,000 is currently allocated.”

“...there are some good funding options for operation and maintenance of recreational facilities, programs, and public access in Teton County.”

“A recreation district”, “could provide a stable funding source and approximately \$785,000 per year in revenue. Another funding source is a local option tax (resort sales tax) that could be collected by the cities and designated for recreation. Both the recreation district and the resort sales tax would need to be approved by voters in Teton County, with the recreation district requiring 50% majority and the sales tax requiring 60% majority vote to pass.”

“It is likely that a combination of funding will be needed for capital improvements of recreation facilities, as well as operation and maintenance. This includes user fees, taxes, grants, private donations, commissions, and other sources. Additionally, reliance on volunteers will still be needed, such as to provide coaching and other program services.”

#### RECREATION PLAN GOALS-

- Improve administration and coordination of existing programs and facility maintenance.
- Establish one or more stable funding sources and develop a long-range funding plan for facilities, programs, and access.
- Improve the condition of existing facilities before making investments in new ones.
- Conduct feasibility studies for larger capital improvements, which will require capital campaigns to fund and will not be able to be funded solely by a recreation district or sales taxes.
- Grow and expand recreation programs targeted to youth in the short term and middle aged and senior populations in the long term.

## COMMENTS FROM MAY 12<sup>th</sup> PUBLIC MEETING & PUBLIC AT LARGE:

- Better coordination/utilization of school and church facilities may be needed.
- There is an economic return to recreational investments.
- Youth teams often times have to wait or practice at odd hours in order to use facilities.
- Volunteers are vital to the continuing success of recreation on the valley.
- This document is part of a “Recreation Management” plan for the valley.
- Concerns about more taxes and paying for facilities citizens don’t use.
  - I do want to clarify that this plan lists all the fund “tools” available. A recreation district is one of those tools. This plan will **NOT** implement a recreation district and supporting this plan does not support a recreation district any more than it supports other funding options.
- Could provide more opportunities for the youth in the valley to compete and succeed in a variety of activities.

## CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT FROM THE MAY 12<sup>th</sup> MEETING:

The pages that changed in the new document are as follows:

Cover – date changed

Table of contents – some of the page numbers changed

31 – Corrected public access point information

35 – Corrected number of boat accesses

56 – Added “It is important that programs are available to people of all abilities, including special needs, and income levels.” Under Other

59- Added “Low income population” in list of populations that should be served.

67 – Added image of Conceptual Master Plan for the Fairgrounds – this was added to fill space and make the pages break better after other info was added.

71 - Added first sentence under Recreation District “The creation of a Recreation District can provide a stable funding source and serve as a lead, coordinating entity for recreation.”

72 - Added info on what a 0.03% tax rate would generate and cost per household at the lower rate.

Changed the last sentence in the paragraph below the bulleted info to: “Thus, other funding mechanisms, such as user fees and private donations, will need to be utilized to supplement recreation district tax dollars.”

74- Added “and maintaining facilities” to the first sentence under Recreation Department.

75-79–

- Under Capital Funding, added information on revenue bonds (however, after talking to Mary Lou, we might take this back out);
- Under Operations Funding – Fees and Charges, added “User fees should be higher for residents that live outside of Teton County, Idaho in the case that a recreation district or recreation department is formed for the County. Additionally, reduced fees could be charged for seniors or low-income families to help make recreation accessible to a wide audience.”
- under Inter-local Agreements, added “,including Teton County, Wyoming”
- Section 4.3 – all tables have been modified.

- Framework table – Administration. The first item under short term was changed to: “A lead coordinating entity for recreation (e.g. Recreation District or Recreation Department) should be established. All jurisdictions and recreation providers in Teton Valley should cooperate in establishment of this lead entity. The lead entity should be responsible for updating and implementing this recreation master plan.”
- The second item under short term was changed to: “Once established, the lead coordinating entity should hire an executive director and develop comprehensive intergovernmental agreements with the county, cities, and other agencies, as appropriate, to manage and develop recreation facilities and services.”

The page numbers from 77 on changed so if you want all of the correct page numbers, you’ll have to print pages 77 to 96.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:**

This proposal was noticed in accordance with Idaho Code, Title 67, Section 67-6509, 67-6511, 67-6512, and Title 8, Section 8-6-1 of the Teton County Zoning Ordinance:

1. The required public hearing for the Board of County Commissioners was duly noticed in the Teton Valley News.
2. The public hearing is being held in accordance with Idaho Code 67-6534.

**COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Teton County planning staff recommends:  
(1) Approval of Resolution 2014-0609, adopting the Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan, and encourage the other communities in Teton Valley to do the same.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

- A. Approve Resolution 2014-0609.
- B. Approve Resolution 2014-0609 with modifications to the Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan, having provided the reasons and justifications for the approval and for any modifications.
- C. Deny Resolution 2014-0609 and provide the reasons and justifications for the denial.
- D. Continue the Board’s public hearing to a specified date.

**County Planning Staff recommends Action (A).**

End of report ..... Written by County Planning Administrator Jason Boal